

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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21

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 AID-05 EB-07 SAB-01 SAM-01 NIC-01 /070 W

----- 048052

R 160546Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2377

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 142

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIN, PFOR, SY, SA

SUBJ: PROBABLE SAUDI PAYMENT OF RABAT SUBSIDY TO SYRIA

REF: AMMAN 222

1. WE HAVE REASON TO BELIEVE SAUDI PAYMENT OF RABAT SUBSIDY IN RANGE OF \$227 MILLION MADE TO SYRIA AROUND JAN 11 OR 12. OUR CURIOSITY WHETTED WHEN US-EDUCATED CENTRAL BANK RESEARCH DEPT DIRECTOR USAMA MALKI'S CALLED ECONOFF 10 P.M. JAN 12 REQUESTING ASSISTANCE TO OBTAIN VISA TO U.S. THAT NIGHT, WHICH WE PROVIDED, SO HE COULD CATCH 5 A.M., JAN 13 FLIGHT. IN DISCUSSING HIS TRIP, MALKI ADMITTED HE DIRECTED TO CARRY CHECK TO NEW YORK BANK BY ECONOMY MINISTER IMADI SINCE SYRIA WOULD LOOSE TOO MUCH INTEREST BY MAILING CHECK FOR DEPOSIT WHICH WOULD TAKE 7 TO 10 DAYS. WITH SOME PRODDING, MALKI ADMITTED NINE FIGURES WERE INVOLVED.

2. WE REMINDED DEP. MIN. ECON. AZMEH JAN 14 OF OUR RAPID VISA SERVICE FOR WHICH HE VERY GRATEFUL, ADDING THAT HE HAD MADE RAPID CALCULATION SHOWING SARG WOULD LOSE  
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\$50,000 IN INTEREST FOR EACH DAY CHECK NOT DEPOSITED.

THIS WAS REASON FOR MALKI'S HURRIED COURIER TRIP.

3. IRVING TRUST BEIRUT REP THEN CALLED ON ECONOFF AND  
IN COURSE OF CONVERSATION HE CALCULATED \$50,000/DAY  
INTEREST MEANT DEPOSIT OF AROUND \$227 MILLION, WHICH HE  
THOUGHT WOULD GO TO MORGAN GUARANTY.

4. THERE HAS BEEN NO ANNOUNCEMENT HERE OF SAUDI SUBSIDY  
AS IN JORDAN, REFTTEL, BUT ABOVE EVIDENCE SUGGESTS SAUDIS  
MADE PAYMENT TO SYRIA AT SAME TIME AS PAYMENT TO JORDAN.  
MURPHY

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** MartinML  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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